

charge, Senator PRYOR chaired the hearings. I chaired when Republicans were in charge. Our objective was never lost, and the work moved forward. Our commitment was always to the courageous soldier in the field—the individual dependent on the weapon systems.

Another Senator with whom I've had the pleasure of working closely is SAM NUNN, one of the most honorable, fair and bipartisan leaders I've known. SAM and I have alternated between chairing and serving as ranking minority member on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations since 1981. On many occasions, our staffs worked together on joint investigations.

We launched the first congressional investigation identifying crack cocaine as a significant drug problem. We investigated airline safety, and explored the Justice Department's handling of the Jackie Presser ghostworkers issue. Senator NUNN has been a staunch opponent of waste, fraud, and abuse, and he has gained world renown as an expert in matters of defense and foreign affairs.

Most recently, he and I launched the first investigation of Russian organized crime activities in the United States, continuing PSI's longstanding history of being Congress' primary organized crime investigator.

I am also grateful to Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM and her leadership in health care. NANCY is another one of the profoundly thoughtful Senators who serve as the catalyst for important policies and laws. She was certainly a catalyst in the effort to successfully pass the medical savings account demonstration program, as part of our effort to make health care more accessible for Americans.

Another retiring Member of the Senate, after five terms in Senator MARK HATFIELD, a man whose dedication to principle has distinguished his career in the State House as well as on Capitol Hill. Among his many legislative successes, I'm grateful for Senator HATFIELD's work on behalf of Amtrak, as well as his objective analysis and contributions to debates and initiatives through the years.

Likewise, HANK BROWN, and his rugged, no-nonsense approach in promoting a strong foreign policy and fiscal responsibility. HANK and I have served together on the North Atlantic Assembly, and we have joined efforts to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. His eloquence and clear logic make him unusually effective and a pleasure to work with—not to mention his love for St. Bernards—another devotion we share.

I appreciate BILL COHEN, our distinguished senior Senator from Maine. Senator COHEN is a noted novelist, a poet. I've found many of his speeches brilliantly enriching, especially a speech he gave a few years ago about the changing culture around us. BILL has been a dogged proponent of cutting waste, fraud, and abuse on the Government Affairs Committee, and he has

been active in our efforts to understand and build relationships of trust with the nations of the Pacific. He will be remembered not only for his work with ASEAN, but for his efforts on behalf of NATO, and his chairing of the Munich Conference.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to recognize Senator ALAN SIMPSON, a good friend and revered colleague. There are few men who become legends in their own time, but AL is certainly one of them. His easy-going, affable manner and ready wit were equal to his majestic stature and trademark smile. There hasn't been a time when AL's opened his mouth to speak that I haven't waited in anticipation for some new sparkling gem of wisdom, a witty turn of phrase, or an outright joke.

AL taught us, as his mother taught him, that humor is the irreplaceable solace against the elements of life; hatred corrodes the container it's carried in. With his humor, he could diffuse even the most impassioned and tensely difficult moments.

It was AL who, during one very difficult period—a period of some contention on this floor—told us of the successful marriage philosophy he shares with his wonderful wife, Ann. It was a simple philosophy: "Never go to bed angry * * *" he said. "Always stay up and fight!"

During another heated moment, in the middle of the confirmation hearings on Judge Robert Bork, AL reminded us, with his western charm, the "Everyone's entitled to their own opinion, but not to their own facts."

And it was AL who taught us how to deal with the media. Once, when pressed for his church preference, he answered: "Red brick!"

Indeed, as the liberal commentator, Mark Shields, has recognized, "AL SIMPSON is a man of uncommon wisdom." With his retirement, he not only leaves behind a rich legislative legacy, and dear memories for friends, but a reputation akin to that which attends Will Rogers. I can only imagine that in the years and decades ahead, AL, like Mark Twain, Will Rogers, Winston Churchill, and other great wits, will come to inherit aphorisms and jokes that he never told. But then, those of us who know him, realize that he truly deserves such an honor.

It has been my pleasure to serve with Senators SIMPSON, COHEN, BROWN, HATFIELD, KASSEBAUM, NUNN, PRYOR, and HEFLIN—as well as with Senator SIMON, who we saluted with our bowties last week, Senator BENNETT JOHNSTON—four successful terms from Louisiana, Senator EXON, and Senator BRADLEY, who I've had the pleasure of serving with on the Finance Committee. And I appreciate Senator PELL, another fine leader who leaves a great legacy, both at home and abroad. Mr. President, I salute all those who are retiring this year. Each has lived a life in deeds, not words, and in their actions have written their legacy on tablets of love and memory.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION—REAUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 3539, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 3539, an act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there shall be 3 hours for debate on the conference report, with the time to be equally divided between the two leaders.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, the Senate now is going to continue its work on the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill.

TRIBUTE TO ADMINISTRATOR HINSON

As we start that, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to that Agency's leader, David Hinson.

As many Members of the Senate know, Administrator Hinson will be leaving his post later this year, and he will return with his wife, Ursula, to their home in Idaho.

I just called him Administrator Hinson. That is tough for me to say because over the last years, those of us who have worked with him always called him David. He is a very approachable guy and one who we understand. He comes from the West. In my State, where aviation is very critical and more than 75 percent of our communities can be reached only by air, David has become well known. He has been to Alaska several times. He had to cancel a recent visit with our air carriers because of the tragedy of TWA Flight 800.

But he is continuing to work on solutions to our problems, particularly the problems that we are experiencing at the Juneau International Airport. Two critical departures have been revoked, and David is working with safety personnel to try to find a way to make those departures safe for travelers in and out of our capital city.

As Administrator, Mr. Hinson has set the FAA on a good course, working with a very competent assistant and associate administrator, Linda Daschle. He has been able to urge Congress to address the FAA's future funding needs, and he has worked to improve commuter airline safety and,